

ABSTRACT

An intra-aortic balloon catheter having a gas lumen insert disposed within its gas lumen during insertion of the catheter into the blood vessel of a patient. The gas lumen insert facilitates insertion and helps prevent kinking of the catheter.

1. A catheter for insertion into a blood vessel of a patient, the catheter comprising:
a. a catheter body having a proximal end and a distal end;
b. a gas lumen disposed within the catheter body;
c. a gas lumen insert disposed within the gas lumen;
d. a proximal connector disposed at the proximal end of the catheter body;
e. a distal connector disposed at the distal end of the catheter body;
f. a proximal connector disposed at the proximal end of the gas lumen insert;
g. a distal connector disposed at the distal end of the gas lumen insert;
h. a proximal connector disposed at the proximal end of the catheter body and the gas lumen insert;
i. a distal connector disposed at the distal end of the catheter body and the gas lumen insert;